The following is a list of native trees, shrubs and plants that are recommended for streamside buffers in this area:

Trees

- River Birch
- Red Maple
- Silver Maple
- Speckled Alder
- Sycamore
- Swamp White Oak

Shrubs/Small Trees

- Smooth Alder
- Red-osier Dogwood
- Flowering Dogwood
- Spicebush
- Red Willow
- Silky Willow

Perennials

- Swamp Milkweed
- Beggarticks
- Marsh Spike Rush
- Sensitive Fern
- Smartweed
- Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod

Tree shelters are recommended for deer-prone areas. Tree shelters are available from:

Tree Essentials (800) 248-8239 or

Tree Pro (800) 875-8071

Sources of Information:

Penn State Cooperative Extension of Northampton County - 610-746-1970 NorthamptonExt@psu.edu

Northampton County Conservation District - 610-746-1971 northamptoncd@pa.nacdnet.org

Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council - 610-865-3291 www.lowersauconTownship.org

Recommended Publications:

Establishing Vegetative Buffer Strips Along Streams to Improve Water Quality
Penn State Publications & Distribution
112 Ag Administration Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802

Stream Releaf : Forest Buffer Tool Kit
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Watershed Conservation
717-787-5259
www.dep.state.pa.us

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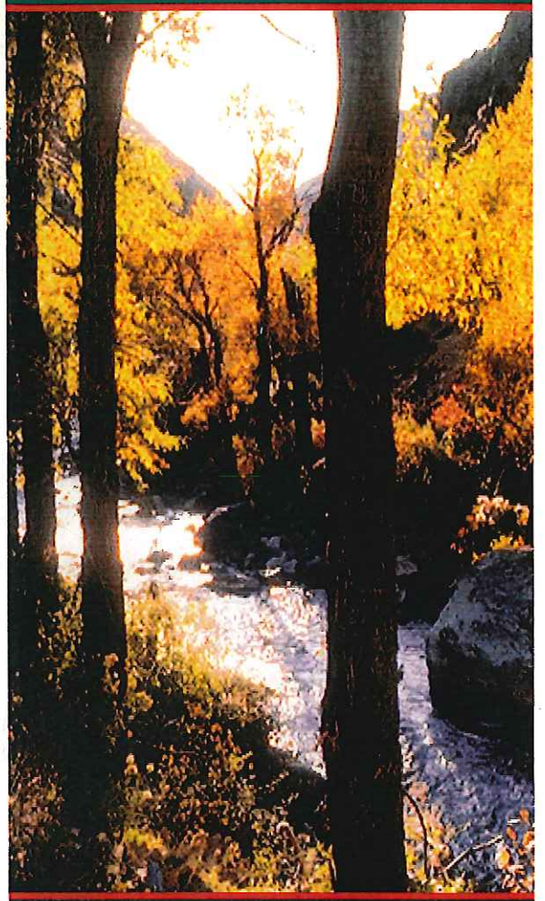
STREAMSIDE BUFFERS

Improving Community Water Quality



A Source Pamphlet for Streamside Property Owners

What is a streamside buffer?

A streamside buffer includes both the plants and soil along side a stream. This may include meadow grasses, shrubs, trees, or any combination of these. Working together, the plants and soil nourish and protect your stream. A healthy buffer can also slow run-off and remove harmful sediments and contaminants before they enter the stream.

Why is a streamside buffer important?

Filters pollution - A streamside buffer slows surface run-off, giving rainwater time to seep into the ground before it enters the stream. This ground-seeping process filters out toxins, such as herbicides, pesticides, and excess fertilizers that can contaminate the stream.

Prevents erosion - Buffers prevent harmful erosion and sedimentation. Erosion robs your yard of essential topsoil and nutrients. Soil sediments washing into the stream destroy the habitat of aquatic insects, removing a basic part of the food chain that fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals depend on.

Reduces flooding - Streambank buffers provide greater resistance to run-off flow than maintained lawns, slowing the rate at which heavy rains enter streams and rivers. Run-off from a lawn can be almost as great as the run-off from asphalt!

Stabilizes streambanks - The roots of trees and shrubs form a network or physical barrier that holds soil and prevents the soil from being washed away during heavy rains. Grass roots are shallow and are not as effective at holding a streambank or reducing flooding.

Provides habitat - One of the most important benefits of a streamside buffer is the creation of habitat. Create a buffer, and you're providing food and shelter for wildlife. You and your family can enjoy a wide variety of nature from beautiful butterflies to frogs, turtles, birds, and small mammals.

Regulates water temperature - Shade from trees and shrubs stabilizes water temperature and keeps it cooler. Cooler water is essential for water quality and local aquatic life.

Provides nutrients - A buffer provides a stream with up to 90% of its nutrients in the form of fallen leaves. The food chain of a healthy stream starts with leaves falling into the stream.

Provides landowner benefits - The improved visual appeal of a stabilized, healthy functioning stream can increase property values. Improved water quality also can provide recreational opportunities such as fishing and hiking for you, your family, and neighbors, as well as, enhanced wildlife habitat and reduced flooding potential.

How do I create a streamside buffer?

It's not difficult to create a buffer. A streamside buffer is one of the most cost-effective and maintenance-free ways to enhance your property.

1. Eliminate obvious non-native invasive plants such as mutiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, and purple loosestrife.
2. When you mow your lawn, stop short. Leave a minimum of 25-30 feet of un-mowed area to the edge of the stream. With a streamside buffer, wider is better, but even a small strip of native vegetation is better than none.
3. If bare lawn currently extends to the edges of the stream, add perennials, shrubs, and trees. Plant one area at a time if you need to for affordability.
4. Go native. Native plants will add to your viewing pleasure and provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife. Native plants require minimal care and will be more successful.
5. Plant native vegetation in early spring or fall to lessen the need for watering.
6. Choose the right plants. To establish a streamside buffer choose plants that are:
   - native, and suited to this climate
   - relatively fast-growing
   - able to thrive in wet soils and able to withstand periodic flooding.